361 surrounding almost every house. By the house
563 there are usually vegetable gardens as well, over which among other things bloom the inevitable sunflowers.

In general, the more well-to-do the peasants, the poorer the Cossacks. Peasants acclimatize relatively quickly and get accus-
[241] tomed to a new environment. The irrigation system of caring for the fields assures good harvests for them, which give them twelve-fold return of wheat. In addition to grain cultivation the peasants work in orchards and do
[691] vegetable gardening. The only inconvenience suffered by the peasants is the eternal litigation with the nomads over water and land, and the local administration goes to great trouble to pacify the litigants. In general the problem of the limitations of the economy of the nomads and the settlers is the most serious and immediate problem in Semirechie. Nevertheless, in spite of the arguments, the opposing sides do not attempt major damage and it does not lead to serious clashes between them.

563 In recent times the attention of the local administration has been directed toward attracting peasants into the Cossack estate, in order to increase the body of the Semirechie Cossacks. They have been offered various privileges with this in view, but few have wished to join the Cossacks. The Siberian and Orenburg Cossacks may serve as contingents for the reinforcement of the Semirechie Cossack division, for they are already accustomed to the Cossack way of life, so to speak, and they will be given the possibility of moving into the new territory.